

In Pennsylvania an ethical problem raised by the expansion of AI data centers concerns local environmentalists. This case study focuses on a 1.2 gigawatt data center located in Delaware City that would consume about 12.7 million gallons of water annually and rely on 516 diesel-powered generators. While AI development is promoted as economic progress, these facilities raise significant problems for the surrounding communities. This situation is morally challenging because it raises the question of fairness, harm, and distributive justice. Locals may experience a significant strain on water supply and systems, higher electricity costs, and increased air pollution, yet they do not share equal benefits from these AI developments. When corporations utilize large amounts of natural resources such as water and energy, without ensuring stability or even compensation for affected communities, these risks violate principles of fairness and responsibility. Looking at research done by Sasha Luccioni, AI systems have significant environmental impacts. They rely on large amounts of electricity, water, and physical infrastructure, which increase carbon emissions and environmental harm. This creates an ethical concern on whether it is right to prioritize technological growth and corporate profit over environmental concerns and financial burdens on our communities. The moral challenge is finding a balance between innovation, fairness and environmental responsibility.